

Esteemed members of the Committee on Human Services of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Leticia Velazquez and I am from West Haven, Connecticut.

I am in favor of H.B. 6616, the bill to expand HUSKY for all under the age of 26. We need the HUSKY program to expand to include everyone, independent of their immigration status. This legislation is important because as undocumented people, our life is more difficult and it is more difficult for us to live in this country. For example, things are more expensive and we don't have help from the country. I have a daughter in university and another daughter who is about to enter university. It is very difficult to support them and my own health. I am doing everything possible to help them in school, but if I fall sick, it'll put me in a bad position. If I appear to be sick, I will not be able to help them.

Recently I have been trying to get a mammogram. Because I don't have medical insurance, I have not been able to get the examination. Although there are state-based services for pap smears and mammograms, I was still not able to get these studies done because they told me I needed a doctor. Also, I have a job where they ask me for a physical exam and tuberculosis test. Before, everyone was able to obtain a tuberculosis test, but now they aren't giving the same help or exams to patients like before.

It would greatly help me and my family if this law was approved. In the future, I ask that the committee work to increase access for all immigrants, independent of their age.

Thank you for your time,

Leticia Velazquez